

St. Peter's Elementary School

Inclement Weather Policy Clarification

There have been some questions concerning our recent decisions to close school, or delay opening for inclement weather.

The policy of St. Peter's Elementary School as dictated by the St. Peter's School Board is to follow the decision of Baltimore County Public Schools, when at all possible. We do this in conjunction with other private Lutheran schools in our area, including Concordia Preparatory School. We follow their lead for several reasons:

- Our primary concern is **always** the safety of our students, their parents, and our staff. We have students and faculty who come from Havre de Grace, Owings Mills, Bel Air, Fallston, and Baltimore City. Very often, the conditions throughout our metropolitan area vary widely. If needed, Ms. John may consult local and state police to get a more informed perspective.*
 - We want to eliminate the inconvenience and safety issues that were previously, arbitrarily, made which were often at the last minute, and caused a great deal of anger and confusion among parents and staff.*
- By coordinating with Baltimore County Schools, we try to give parents and staff as much notice as we can. We post our school's name as soon as possible, indicating "closing", "early dismissal", or early closing" on WBAL TV and radio. Ms. John also sends out a robo-call generally by 6:00 a.m.*
- We want to present a united front with our Lutheran partner schools, as families may have children in more than one school.*
- Occasionally there may be times when we do not follow BCPS because our instructional schedules do not agree. A good example of this was our closure on Friday, March 1, 2019. We had a scheduled half day of instruction planned for that day, but BCPS was scheduled for a full day. When BCPS made the decision to open two hours late, that would have left us with only one hour of instruction. This is why Ms. John made the decision, earlier in the week, to notify you that we would be closed, should that possibility occur.*

We want our communication with parents to be professional, accurate, clear, and concise. We strive to give our families and staff as much advance notice as we can provide.